

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

There will be no teleconference for this meeting. The public may attend in person. We request public testimony remain limited to the People to be Heard portion of the meeting.

ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Meeting Agenda

Date: **August 21, 2012**

Time: **9:00 am**

Place: **Bethel**

9:00am – 12:00pm Chinook Salmon Management After Action Review (Jennifer Yuhas)

12:00pm – 1:00pm Coastal Villages Seafoods has arranged to hold a lunch (not public).

1:00pm – 3:00pm Standard meeting of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group: typical agenda. Salmon run indices and catch statistics will be discussed.

Time Called to Order

Chair

Time Adjourned

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM: QUORUM MET? Yes / No

Upriver Elder:

Processor:

Downriver Elder:

Member at Large:

Commercial Fisher:

Sport Fisher:

Lower River Subsistence:

Western Interior RAC:

Middle River Subsistence:

Y-K Delta RAC:

Upper River Subsistence:

ADF&G:

Headwaters Subsistence:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Subsistence Reports:

a. Lower River:

b. ~~ONC Inseason Subsistence:~~

c. Middle River:

d. ~~KNA Inseason Subsistence:~~

e. Upper River:

f. Headwaters:

2. Overview of Kuskokwim River salmon run assessment projects:

a. Bethel Test Fish

b. Weirs/Mark-Recapture/Aerial Surveys/Other:

3. Commercial Catch Report:

4. Processor Report:

5. Sport Fish Report:

6. Weather Forecast:

7. Recommendation:

8. Motion for Discussion and Action:

3:00pm Break for the day

6:00pm Working Group and Agency Barbeque at the Fish and Game Offices in Bethel (not public).

Meeting Agenda (continued)

Date: **August 22, 2012**

Time: **9:00 am**

Place: **Bethel**

9:00am – 12:00pm Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon run reconstruction, brood table, and spawner recruit concepts. (Kevin Schaberg)

12:00pm -1:30pm Lunch Break. Please be back on time.

1:30pm – 3:00pm Working Group Meeting: Old and New business session.

Time Called to Order

Chair

Time Adjourned

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM: QUORUM MET? Yes / No

Upriver Elder:

Processor:

Downriver Elder:

Member at Large:

Commercial Fisher:

Sport Fisher:

Lower River Subsistence:

Western Interior RAC:

Middle River Subsistence:

Y-K Delta RAC:

Upper River Subsistence:

ADF&G:

Headwaters Subsistence:

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Action items from previous meetings:

- a) Beverly Hoffman's request to the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council regarding creating a Calvin Simeon award
- b) Beverly Hoffman's letter of recruitment for the Upriver Elder seat
- c) Update on public outreach efforts
- d) Beverly Hoffman's letter to the NPFMC
- e) Lamont Albertson's letter in support of HB332?
- f) Review of KRSMWG Bylaws
- g) Update KRSMWG Seats (roll-call list, possible alternates)
- h) Lamont Albertson's letter in support of USFWS participation in the KRSMWG

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Board of Fisheries proposals.

COMMENTS FROM WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

NEXT MEETING DATE: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

1 (800) 315-6338 (MEET) Code: 58756# (KUSKO)
ADF&G Bethel toll free: 1 (855) 933-2433

Chinook salmon After Action Review

ADF&G FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE LIAISON TEAM

AFTER ACTION REVIEW – KUSKOKWIM CHINOOK SEASON 2012

WHAT IS AN AAR?

8 AUGUST 2012

J.YUHAS

An AAR is centered on four questions:

What was expected to happen?

What actually occurred?

What went well and why?

What can be improved and how?

An AAR features:

An open and honest professional discussion

Participation by everyone on the team

A focus on results of an event or project

Identification of ways to sustain what was done well

Development of recommendations on ways to overcome obstacles

(Source: http://www.queri.research.va.gov/ciprs/projects/after_action_review.pdf)

WHAT AN AAR IS:

- A learning tool developed by the military, now used by many other groups to promote learning and sharing
- A way to reflect upon a project before or after its completion
- A way to help future teams learn our successful strategies and avoid pitfalls we have worked to overcome
- A discussion focused on identifying Major Themes of the event
- An opportunity to “build a common memory” of the event – this is similar to an “exit poll” on what happened and why

WHAT AN AAR IS NOT:

- A big vent session where we can blame / shame the people we’re mad at
- A discussion focused on minor details – getting “in the weeds” interrupts the thought patters of the group and stifles us from remembering to bring all the Major Themes forward.

- A replacement for more detailed meetings like a post season critique or post season research assessment – the Themes an AAR brings forward should be discussed at those meetings in more detail
- A time to make major decisions – an AAR focuses on the Major Themes, details are reserved for future process discussions

WHY SHOULD WE CONDUCT AN AAR FOR THE 2012 KUSKOKWIM CHINOOK SEASON?

- To wrap up the season (*everyone together*) while it's fresh in our memory
- To learn together while we have the time and before we forget
- To identify the things we need to reflect on *later* in more detail
- Because this is an extremely important fishery, everyone put in a lot of effort, and we care about the future

AARs WORK BEST WHEN THEY ARE:

- **BRIEF** – Believe it or not AARs work best when they last between 2-3 hours only. This timeframe generally allows all the Major Themes to be brought forward for future discussion and keeps the discussion “out of the weeds.”
- **FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE** – Remembering we will all be working together on this in the future or our need for future leaders to learn from our process will help the AAR discussion focus on how to lift up the process (not tear down a person).
- **INCLUSIVE** – *Everyone's* voice is important to an AAR regardless of that person's level of involvement. The whole group benefits when we can see things from as many perspectives as possible. You never know who will offer the most valuable nugget for the future!
- **CANDID** – When our purpose is to learn rather than to blame, we can build a trusting environment where we can all be brave enough to say out loud what needs to be heard, and we can hear things that need to be improved without taking offense. We also need to hear as a group what went well – many times we don't give ourselves enough credit!
- **BIG PICTURE** – The AAR process should identify the Major Themes so that the smaller details can be addressed later.

ADF&G FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE LIAISON TEAM

AFTER ACTION REVIEW – KUSKOKWIM CHINOOK SEASON 2012
WHAT DOES THE AAR PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

8 AUGUST 2012

J.YUHAS

THANK YOU for your participation in our After Action Review! If you've already read the "What is an AAR" briefing paper, you probably have a few more questions about what exactly we'll be doing in Bethel this month...

BE PREPARED TO

- **Hear an introduction from the facilitator and ask the questions you need to ask about the process before we even get started.** We're figuring this may take 20 minutes or more before we even start the discussion on this year's Chinook Season.
- **Contribute to the discussion.** *Everyone's* perspective is important – and we're not just saying that! If someone's perspective goes unheard it goes unlearned, and we all lose out for the future.
- **Identify the Major Themes of this year's Chinook season in the following areas:**
 - What was the plan?
 - What actually happened?
 - What went well and why?
 - What can be improved and how?
- **Focus on what we can all learn.** Detailed discussions about the major themes will take place at future discussions.
- **Be Candid and Respectful.** If we are all respectful we can build an atmosphere safe enough for everyone to speak the truth. We appreciate everyone who has sacrificed their time to go to this meeting. If *any* of us don't feel safe enough to speak truthfully the whole group will have lost the knowledge that person could have contributed. **Speak to the lesson we need to learn** while respecting the people involved.

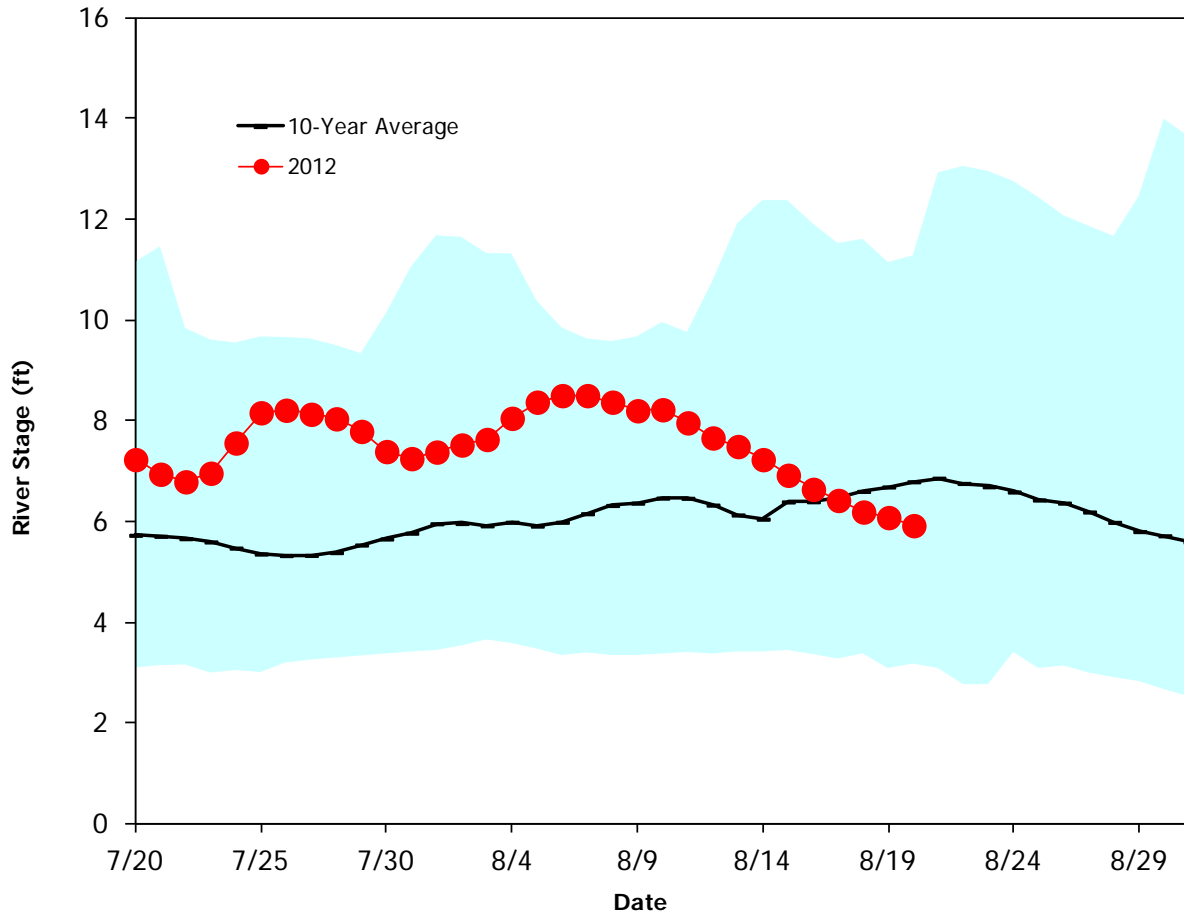
WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE DISCUSSION:

- The **discussion** will be **guided** by the facilitator through the **four questions** above.
- There is no script. We have not pre-determined any themes. Anyone can **start offering information**. We may all be surprised by what we learn.
- When someone gives an idea, we'll be **asking the group for confirmation**.
- We will be **writing down the Major Themes** as they emerge where everyone can see.
- We will be **taking notes** so we can write up a synopsis of the meeting later.
- **If we seem to have agreement** on a point someone brought up, we'll make sure we capture that point and **move on to the next** so that we don't forget to bring up any of the other points...we don't want to leave a point behind!
- **The facilitator will remind the group of the purpose of the AAR.** It's different. We haven't done a meeting like this before. And it takes some getting used to. We'll be reminding people to focus on the big picture, share honestly, and be respectful.
- **When we conclude the AAR** portion of the meeting the Working Group will take up its **regular business**.

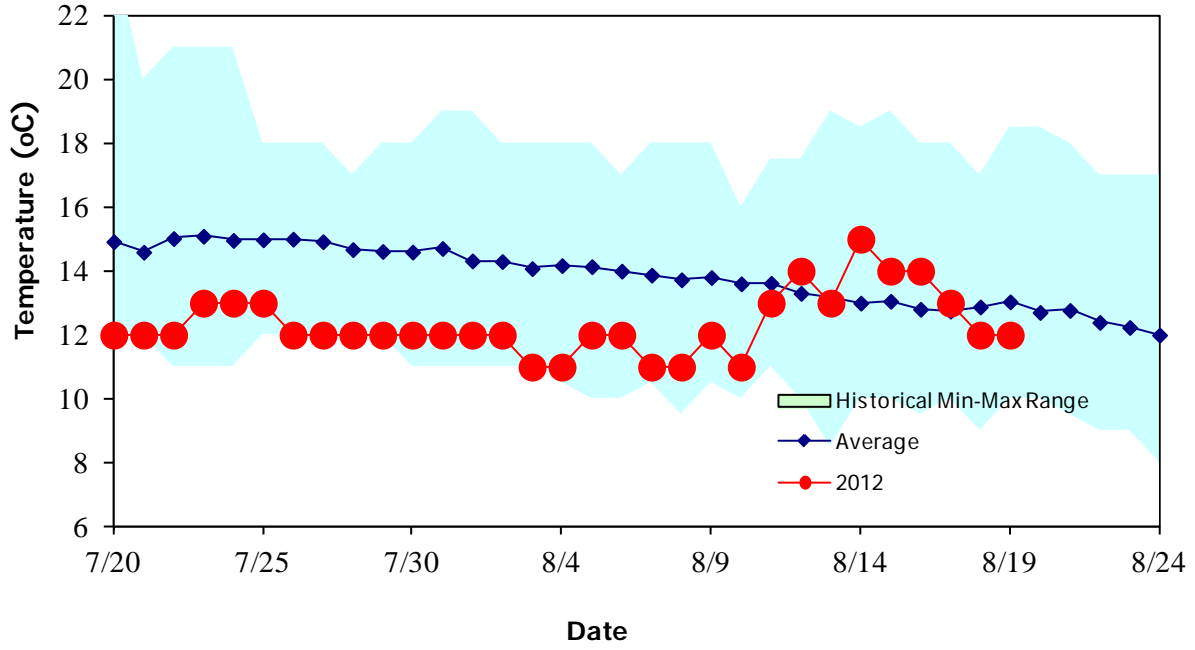
Information Packet

OVERVIEW OF KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON RUN ASSSSMENT PROJECTS

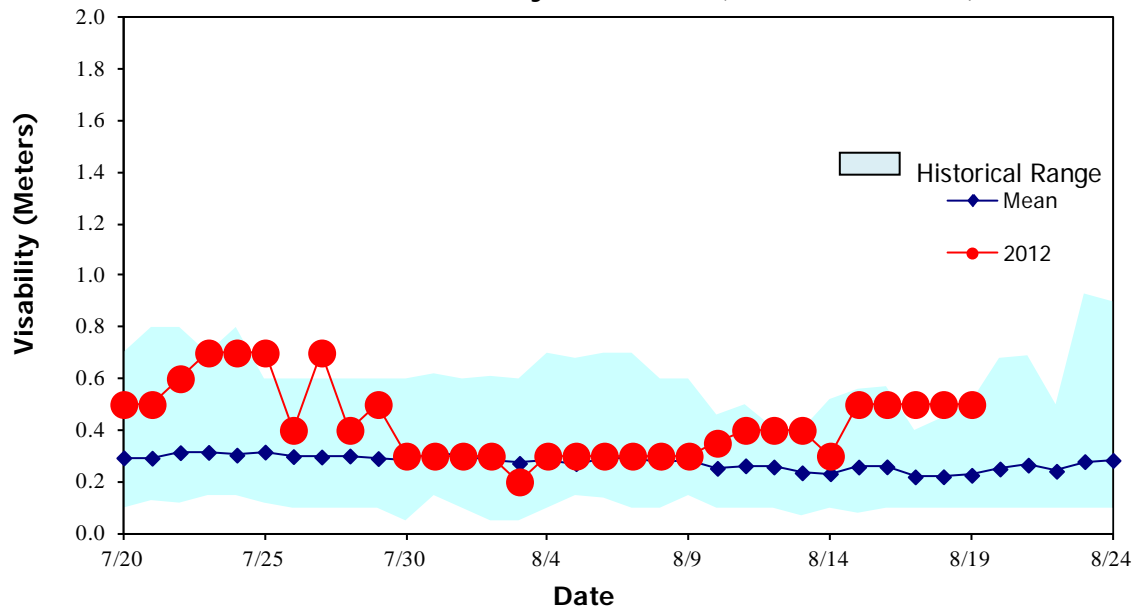
Kuskokwim River Water Level at Crooked Creek (2002 to 2011)



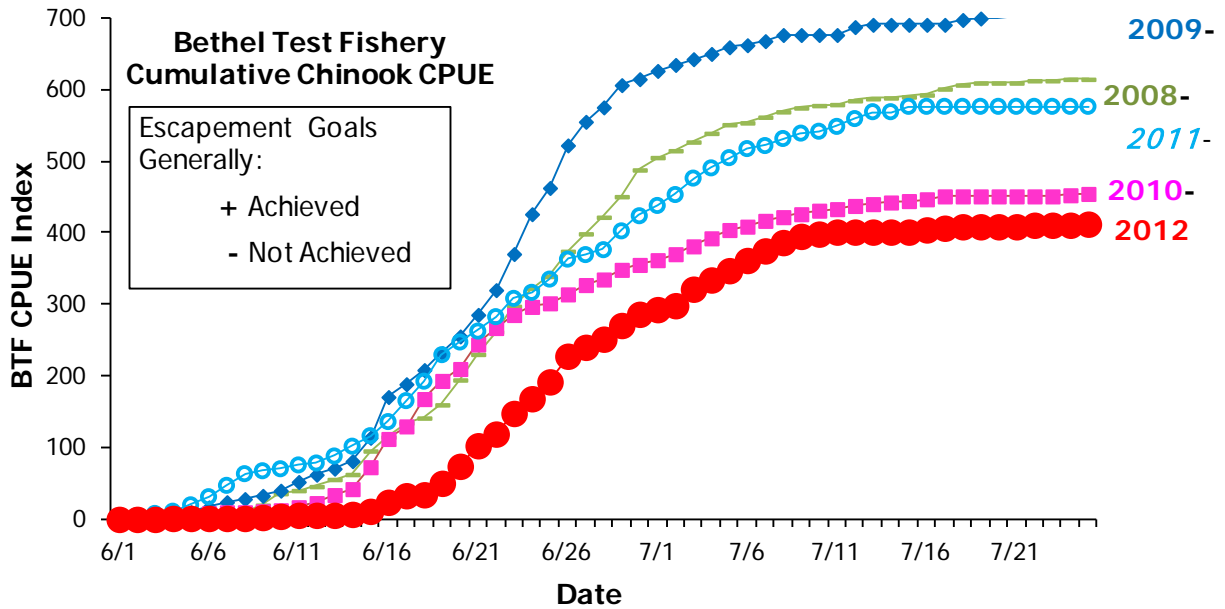
Historical Water Temperature at BTF Site (1984 to Present)



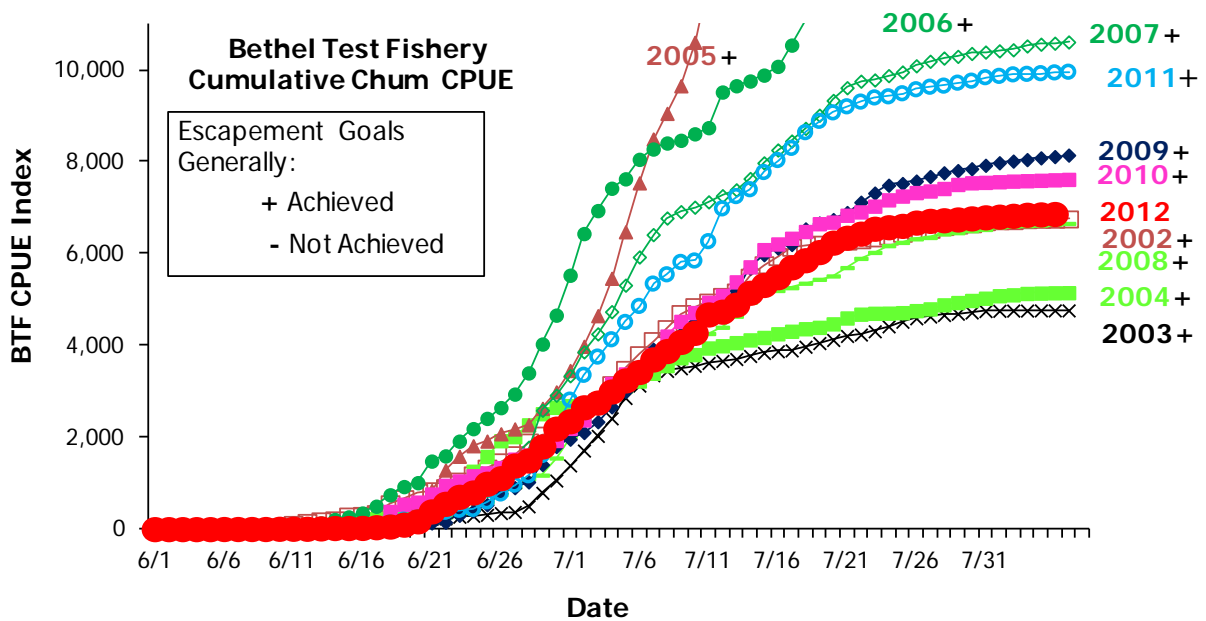
Historical Water Clarity at BTF site (1984 to Present)



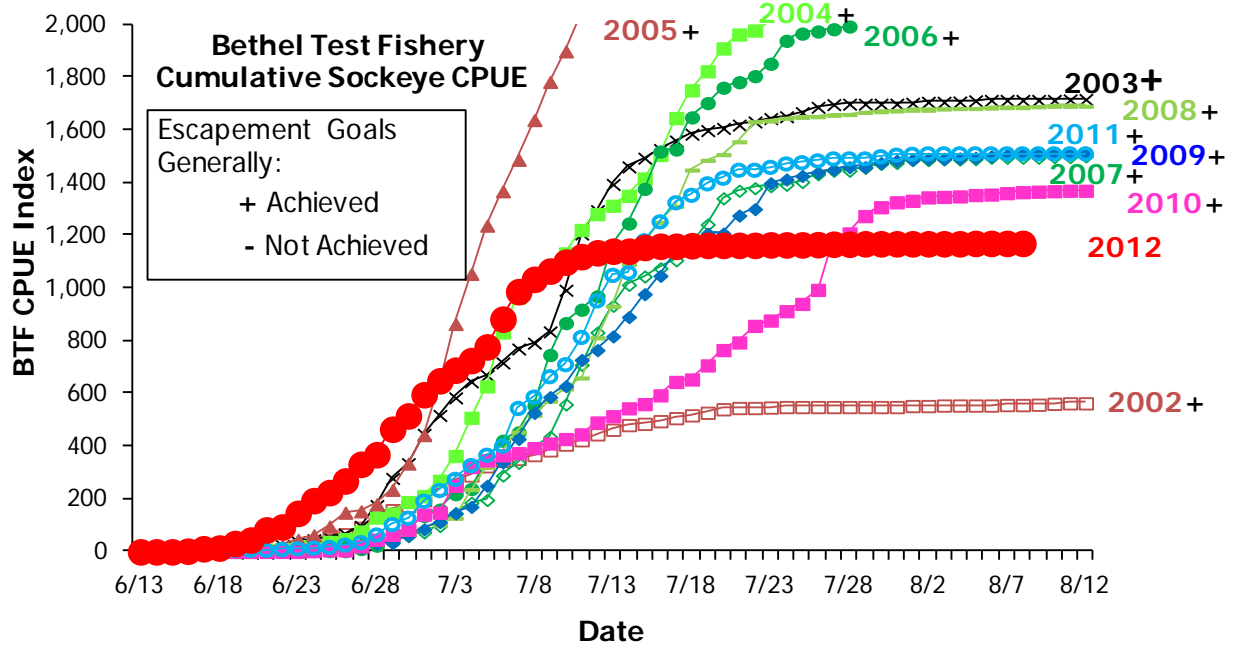
Chinook Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery



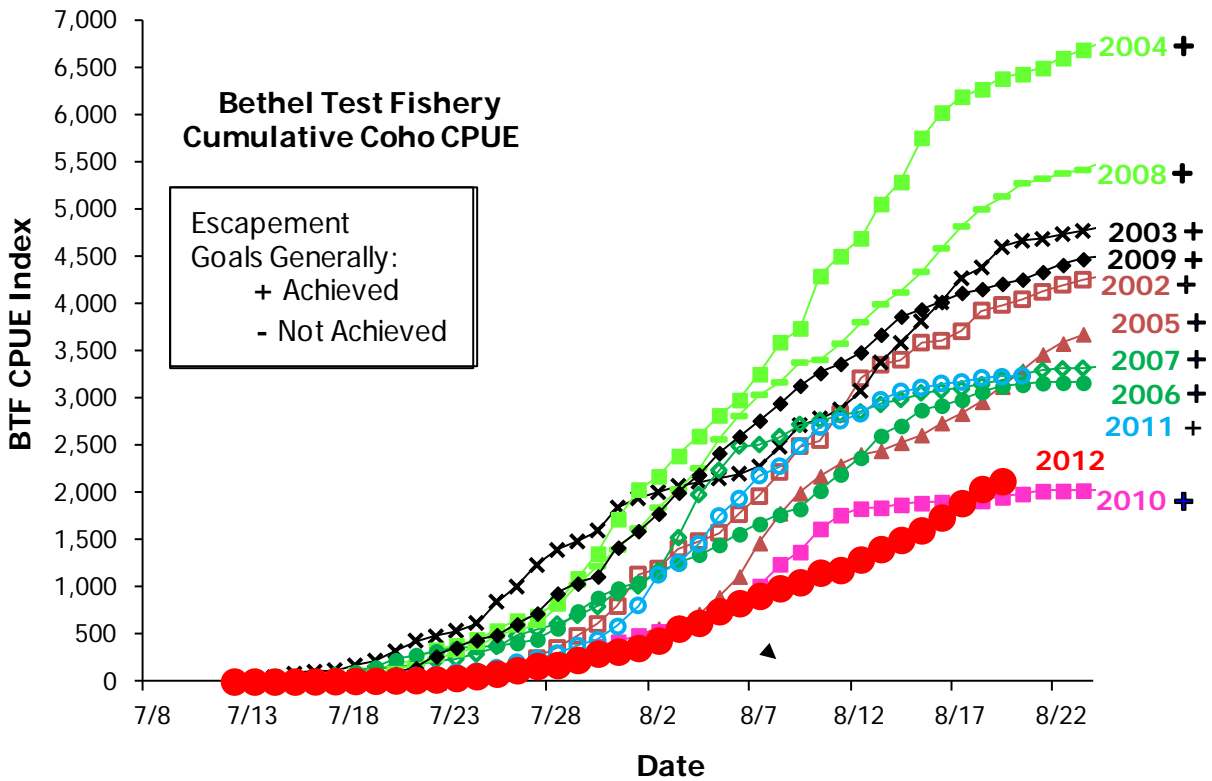
Chum Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery



Sockeye Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery



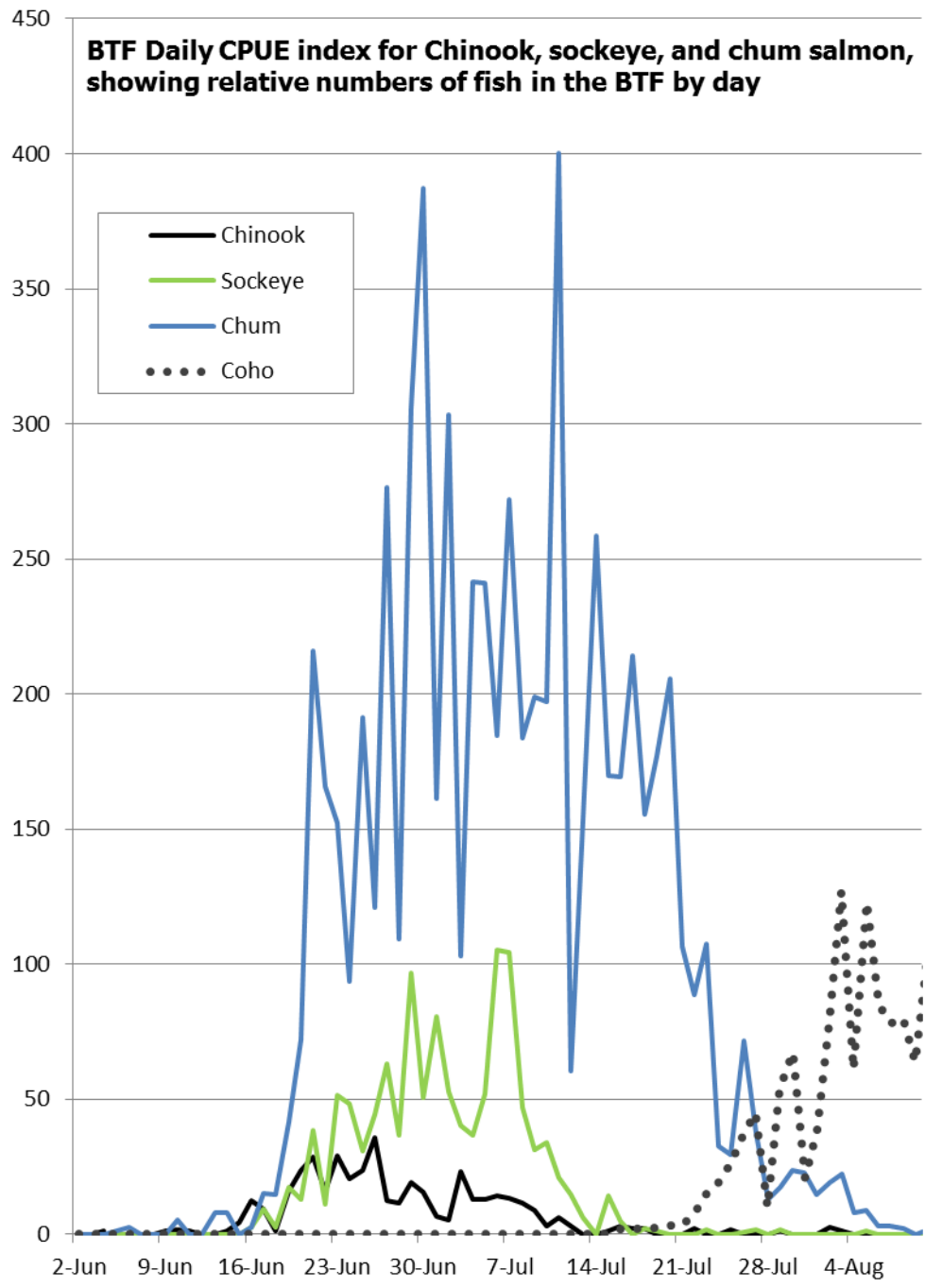
Coho Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index, Bethel Test Fishery



**Bethel Test Fishery
Coho Salmon Cumulative CPUE Index**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8/15	3,585	3,810	5,758	2,610	2,874	3,053	4,334	3,940	1,889	3,109	1,601
8/16	3,605	4,012	6,026	2,737	2,921	3,077	4,582	4,019	1,901	3,153	1,737
8/17	3,705	4,266	6,193	2,837	2,984	3,096	4,815	4,115	1,913	3,168	1,890
8/18	3,925	4,380	6,272	2,963	3,065	3,140	4,995	4,156	1,913	3,212	2,039
8/19	3,984	4,596	6,385	3,123	3,123	3,197	5,133	4,211	1,951	3,223	2,122
8/20	4,044	4,663	6,433	3,292	3,142	3,252	5,272	4,256	1,986	3,234	
8/21	4,122	4,682	6,497	3,464	3,160	3,291	5,320	4,336	2,016	3,234	
8/22	4,198	4,734	6,602	3,579	3,164	3,307	5,376	4,411	2,018	3,234	
8/23	4,251	4,768	6,690	3,678	3,164	3,314	5,413	4,472	2,022	3,234	
8/24	4,289	4,819	6,771	3,678	3,164	3,328	5,494	4,495	2,024	3,234	

BTF Daily CPUE index for Chinook, sockeye, and chum salmon, showing relative numbers of fish in the BTF by day



ESCAPEMENT MONITORING

Kuskokwim River Escapement Projects

As of August 19, 2012 all Kuskokwim River escapement projects are in full operation.

Escapement totals through August 19th, 2012 for Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon at Kuskokwim River escapement monitoring projects.

	Chinook	Chum	Sockeye
Kwethluk *	938	4,403	248
Tuluksak	545 **	16,601	181
Salmon (Aniak) *	472	3,103	892
George	2,069 **	32,075	78
Kogrukluk *	1,139	14,154	1,311
Tatlawiksuk	1,114	44,899	9
Takotna	222	6,046	0
Telaquana	5	42	22,697

* Incomplete counts due to high water events Estimates for missed passage will be made post-season.

** Escapement goal not met.

Kwethluk River weir (*):

Target operational period: June 24th – September 10th

Escapement goal: 6,000 – 11,000 for Chinook salmon

Operation began on July 3rd, 2012. The weir did not operate from July 11th – 18th and 23rd – 29th due to high water events. Partial day counts occurred from July 19th – 22nd and on five additional days. Missed passage during these times has not been estimated. The Chinook and chum salmon runs are nearing completion. Chinook salmon passage has been below 2 fish per day since August 9th and chum salmon passage has slowed significantly. The weir continues to operate to monitor coho salmon escapement.

Tuluksak River weir:

Target operational period: June 24th – September 10th

Escapement goal: 1,000 – 2,100 for Chinook salmon

Operation began on June 27th, 2012. The weir experienced high water events from July 10th – 31st but was able to continue operating. The Chinook and chum salmon runs are nearing completion. Small numbers of chum salmon continue to pass through the weir. A total of five Chinook salmon have passed since August 13th. The escapement goal for Chinook salmon has not been met for 2012. The weir continues to operate to monitor coho salmon escapement.

Salmon River (Aniak River) weir (*):

Target operational period: June 15th – August 28th

No escapement goal for any species. This weir was operated from 2006–2009 as part of mark–recapture studies for Chinook and coho salmon. The weir was re-installed in 2012 to monitor Chinook salmon escapement.

Operation began on July 3rd, 2012. The weir was inoperable from July 9th – 16th and 22nd – 24th due to high water events. In addition, there were seven partial days of counts. Missed passage during these times has not been estimated. The Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon runs are nearing completion. Chinook salmon passage has been below 10 fish per day since August 9th. Chum and sockeye salmon passage has been below 20 fish per day since August 16th.

George River weir:

Target operational period: June 15th – September 20th

Escapement goal: 3,100 – 5,900 for Chinook salmon

Operation began on June 30th, 2012 and there has been no missed passage during that time. The Chinook and chum salmon runs are nearing completion. No Chinook salmon have been observed since August 14th. Chum salmon continue to pass through the weir in small numbers. Based on current counts it does not appear that the Chinook salmon escapement goal will be met. The weir continues to operate to monitor coho salmon escapement.

Kogrukluk River weir (*):

Target operational period: June 24th – September 26th

Escapement goal: 5,300 – 14,000 for Chinook salmon; 15,000 – 49,000 for chum salmon; 4,400 for sockeye salmon

Operation began on June 30th, 2012. The weir did not operate from July 9th – July 27th due to high water events. In addition, there were eight partial days of counts and one additional full non-operational day. Missed passage during this time has not been estimated. The Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon runs are nearing completion, and daily passage of each species is low. Post-season estimation is necessary to determine if the Chinook, chum, and sockeye salmon escapement goals were met. Based on the available data it appears likely that the lower end of the chum escapement goal (15,000) was met. The weir continues to operate to monitor coho salmon escapement.

Tatlawiksuk River weir:

Target operational period: June 15th – September 20th

No escapement goal for any species.

Operation began on June 23rd, 2012 and there has been no missed passage during that time. The Chinook and chum salmon runs are nearing completion. Chinook salmon passage has been low since July 27th and none have been observed since August 15th. Small numbers of chum salmon continue to pass daily. The weir continues to operate to monitor coho salmon escapement.

Takotna River weir:

Target operational period: June 24th – September 20th

No escapement goal for any species.

Operation began on July 5th, 2012. Few partial days of operation have occurred, however, no missed passage has been estimated at this time. The Chinook and chum salmon runs are nearing completion. Few Chinook salmon have been observed since July 27th and daily chum salmon counts have been low. The weir continues to operate to monitor coho salmon escapement.

Telaquana River weir:

Target operational period: July 4th – end of sockeye run

No escapement goal for any species.

Operation began on July 4th and the weir will continue to operate until the end of August. The sockeye salmon run is nearing completion, and daily counts have been low since over the past week. This weir does not estimate Chinook, chum or coho salmon as very few of these species are observed at the weir.

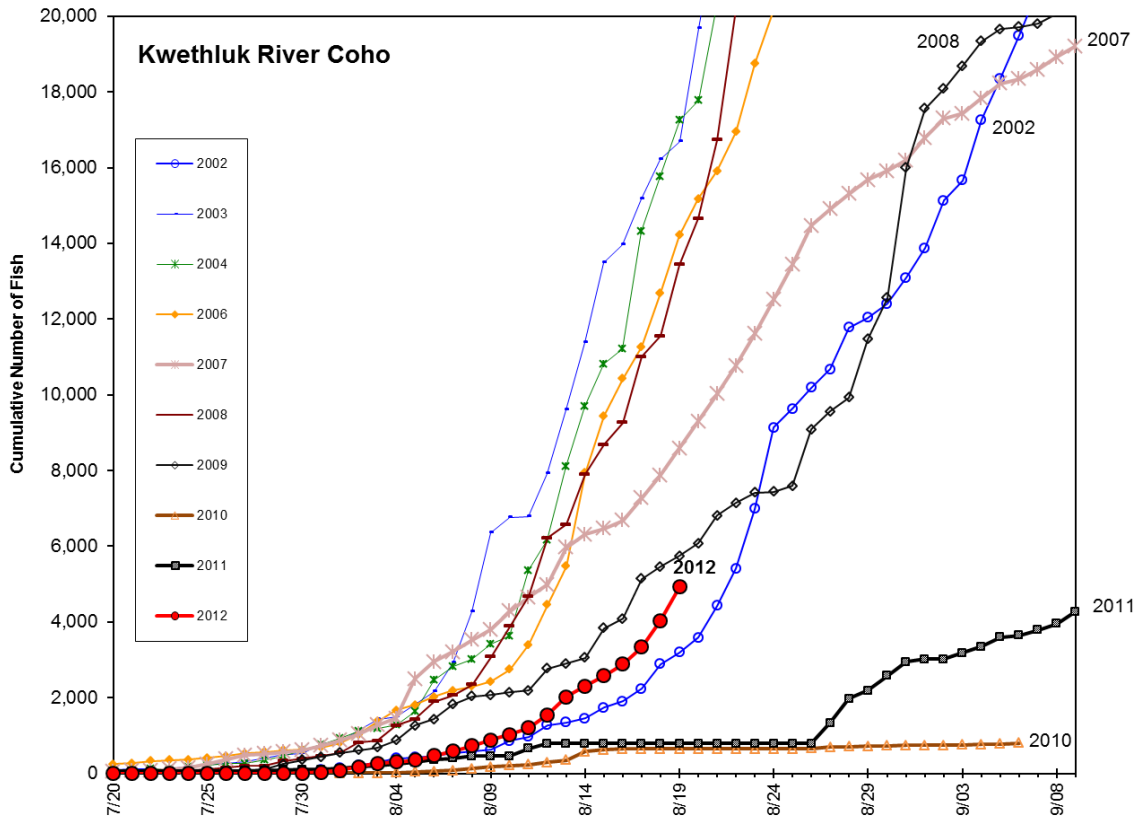
COHO

Kwethluk River weir

Kwethluk River historical cumulative daily coho salmon escapement.

Esc Goal: >19,000

Date	Cumulative Daily Passage										
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8/15	1,734	13,482	10,799		6,772	6,463	8,679	3,833	622	790	2,583
8/16	1,898	13,959	11,221		7,133	6,679	9,266	4,082	646	790	2,888
8/17	2,230	15,178	14,315		7,711	7,276	11,003	5,133	646	790	3,339
8/18	2,881	16,217	15,758		8,265	7,870	11,544	5,462	646	790	4,038
8/19	3,190	16,698	17,257		9,329	8,585	13,440	5,745	646	790	4,929
8/20	3,580	19,664	17,776		9,869	9,293	14,657	6,071	646	790	
8/21	4,425	22,589	20,374		10,460	10,023	16,727	6,814	646	790	
8/22	5,411	24,927	22,642		11,226	10,765	20,173	7,136	646	790	
8/23	6,984	27,877	23,443		12,008	11,612	23,132	7,414	646	790	
Season											
Total	23,298	109,163	64,216	n.a.	25,664	20,257	49,971	21,911	n.a	4,482	

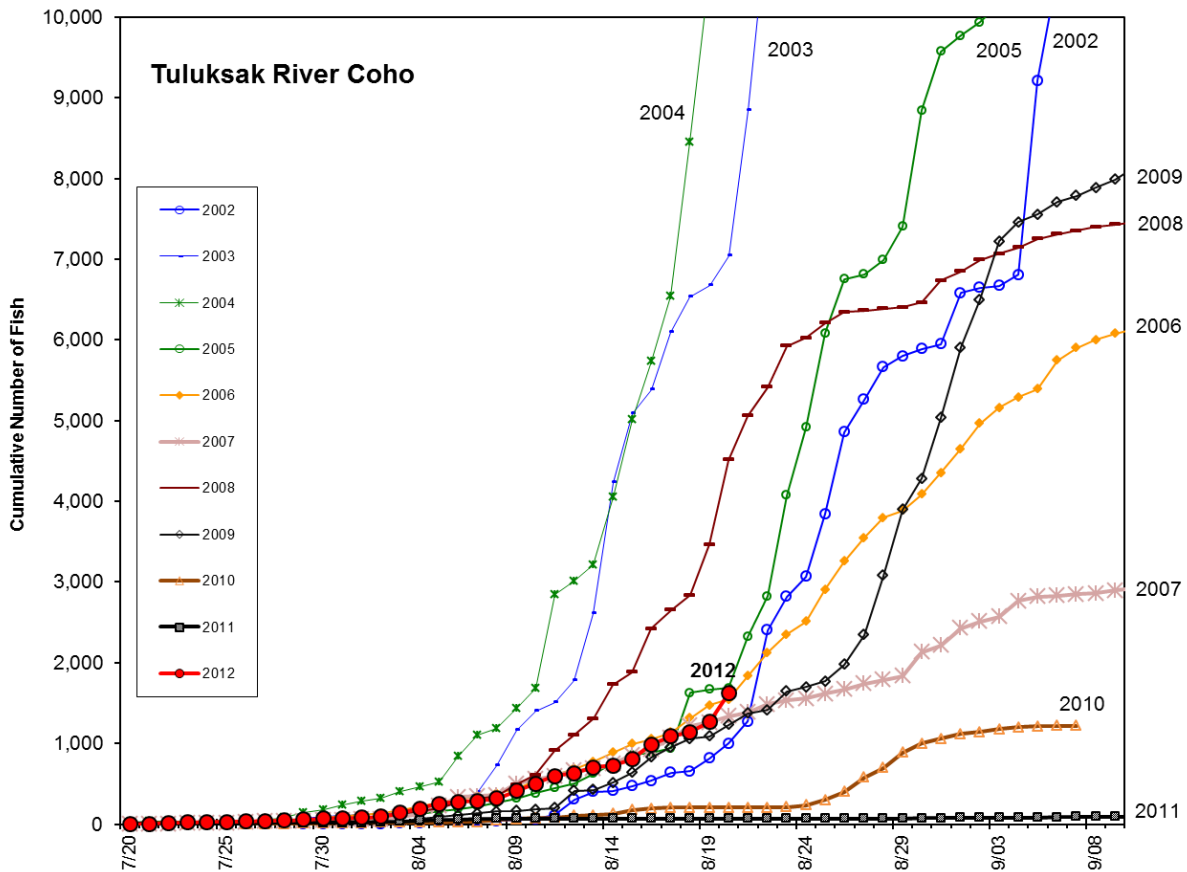


Tuluksak River weir

Tuluksak River weir historical cumulative daily coho salmon escapement.

Esc Goal Range: none

Date	Cumulative Daily Passage										
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8/15	471	5,087	5,010	856	957	741	1,879	638	176	67	986
8/16	537	5,376	5,741	888	1,003	811	2,418	829	190	67	1,086
8/17	640	6,092	6,547	937	1,067	947	2,653	950	202	67	1,138
8/18	654	6,531	8,447	1,628	1,204	1,098	2,834	1,056	203	67	1,265
8/19	814	6,671	10,589	1,667	1,323	1,142	3,466	1,086	203	67	1,623
8/20	997	7,037	10,855	1,687	1,379	1,216	4,510	1,232	203	67	
8/21	1,272	8,836	12,813	2,321	1,602	1,267	5,058	1,369	203	67	
8/22	2,403	11,177	13,040	2,824	1,826	1,364	5,413	1,415	203	67	
8/23	2,818	12,293	13,114	4,075	1,999	1,415	5,921	1,647	213	67	
Season											
Total	11,487	41,071	20,336	11,324	6,111	2,807	7,457	8,137	1,216	92	

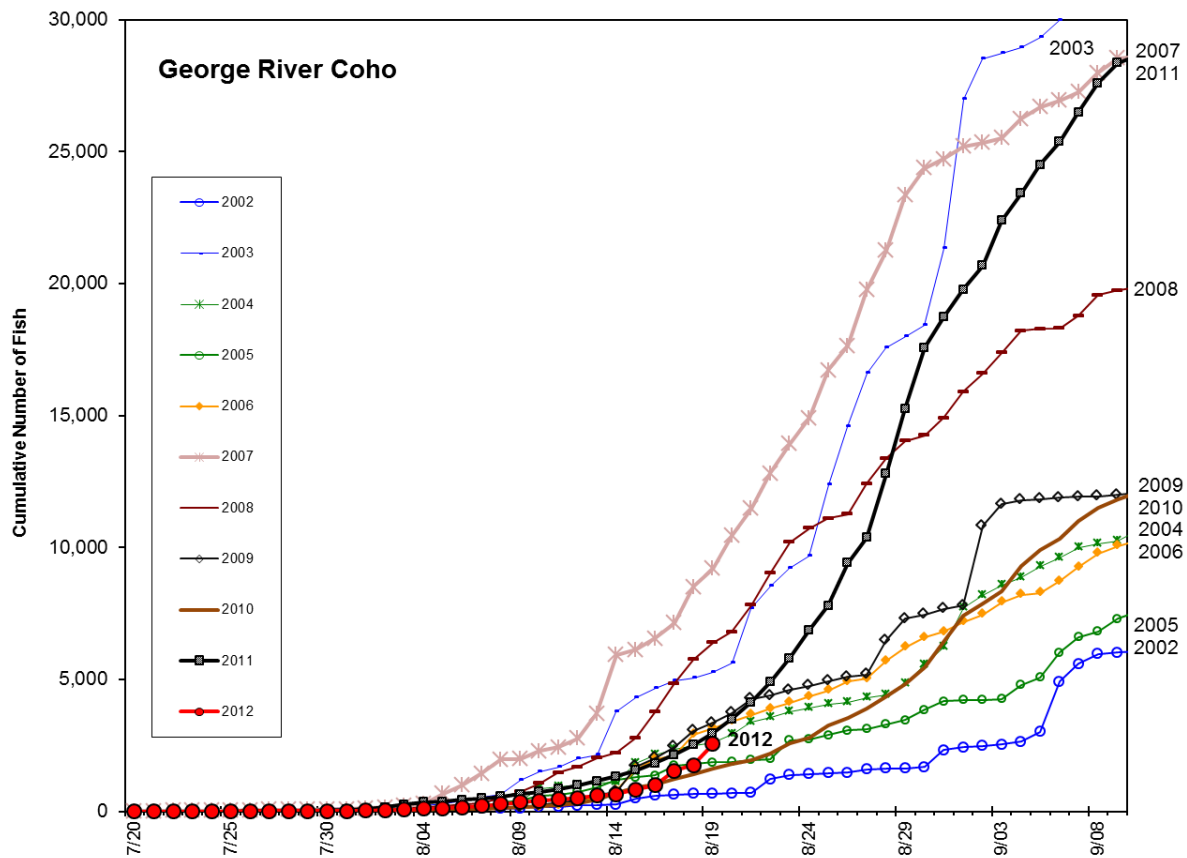


George River weir

George River weir historical cumulative daily coho salmon escapement.

Esc Goal Range: none

Date	Cumulative Daily Passage										
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8/15	488	4,290	1,825	1,295	1,591	6,122	2,790	1,691	898	1,552	818
8/16	603	4,666	2,141	1,363	1,991	6,543	3,756	2,016	1,004	1,819	991
8/17	625	4,947	2,348	1,739	2,120	7,136	4,853	2,445	1,239	2,137	1,544
8/18	658	5,053	2,503	1,802	2,901	8,499	5,751	3,047	1,416	2,515	1,754
8/19	669	5,269	2,599	1,855	3,155	9,196	6,385	3,343	1,600	2,965	2,552
8/20	679	5,622	2,898	1,880	3,405	10,437	6,792	3,729	1,791	3,500	
8/21	698	7,686	3,387	1,956	3,649	11,472	7,821	4,253	1,945	4,137	
8/22	1,223	8,541	3,555	1,983	3,888	12,803	9,022	4,376	2,186	4,895	
8/23	1,369	9,212	3,756	2,691	4,122	13,921	10,194	4,600	2,565	5,796	
Season											
Total	6,759	33,280	12,499	8,200	11,296	29,317	21,931	12,464	12,961	30,028	



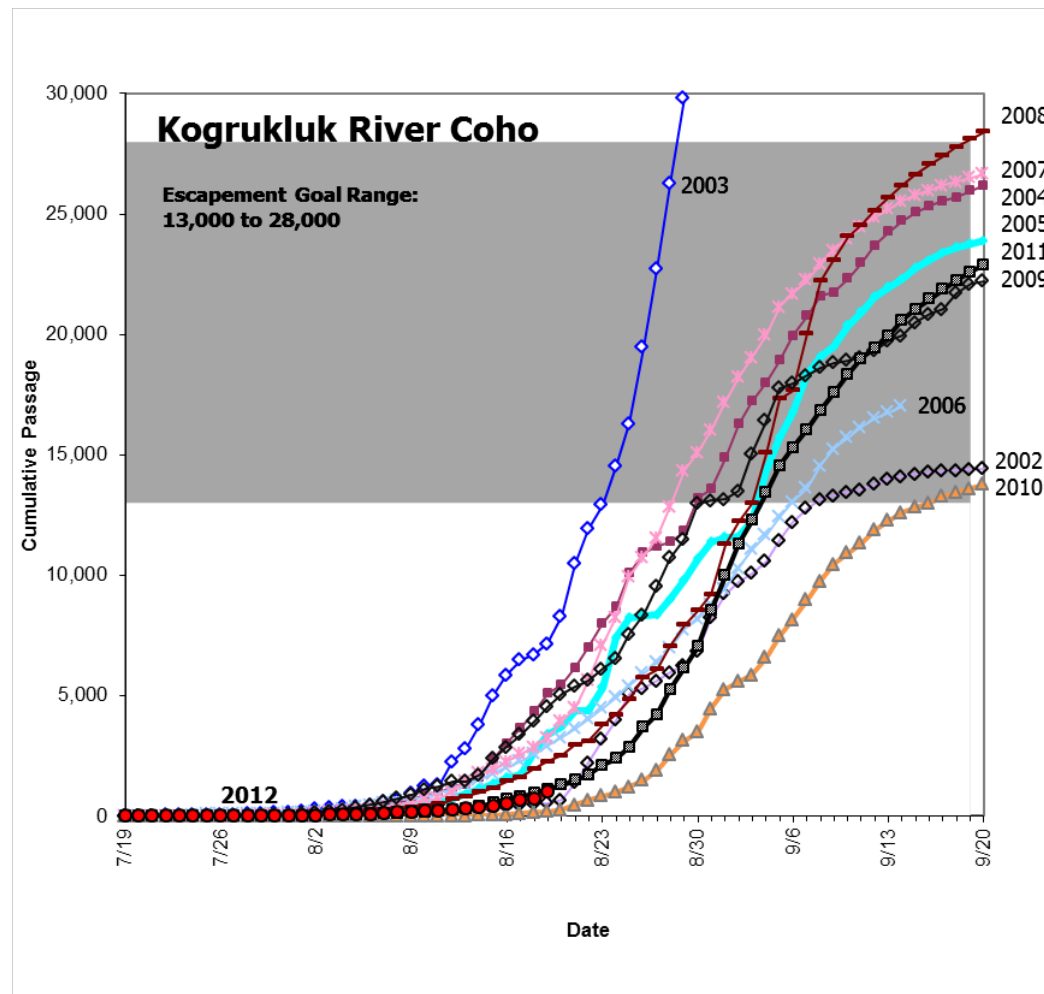
Kogrukluk River weir

Kogrukluk River weir historical cumulative daily coho salmon escapement.

█ = years below escapement goal.

Esc Goal Range: 13,000 to 28,000

Date	Cumulative Daily Passage										
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8/15	300	5,000	2,360	1,335	1,750	1,928	1,164	2,379	28	537	387
8/16	389	5,845	2,998	1,583	2,004	2,261	1,437	2,870	54	702	497
8/17	462	6,478	3,658	1,699	2,283	2,590	1,602	3,385	107	821	629
8/18	510	6,715	4,334	2,659	2,586	2,860	1,970	3,923	160	938	686
8/19	527	7,157	5,082	3,377	2,914	3,221	2,257	4,533	173	1,110	978
8/20	652	8,302	5,451	3,711	3,266	3,936	2,503	5,047	266	1,283	
8/21	1,395	10,488	6,159	4,357	3,643	4,489	2,964	5,385	460	1,483	
8/22	2,220	11,918	6,998	4,380	4,044	5,641	3,101	5,641	668	1,712	
8/23	3,178	12,929	7,997	5,327	4,469	7,109	3,776	6,097	831	2,107	
Season											
Total	14,516	74,604	27,041	24,116	17,011	27,033	29,661	22,981	13,971	24,174	

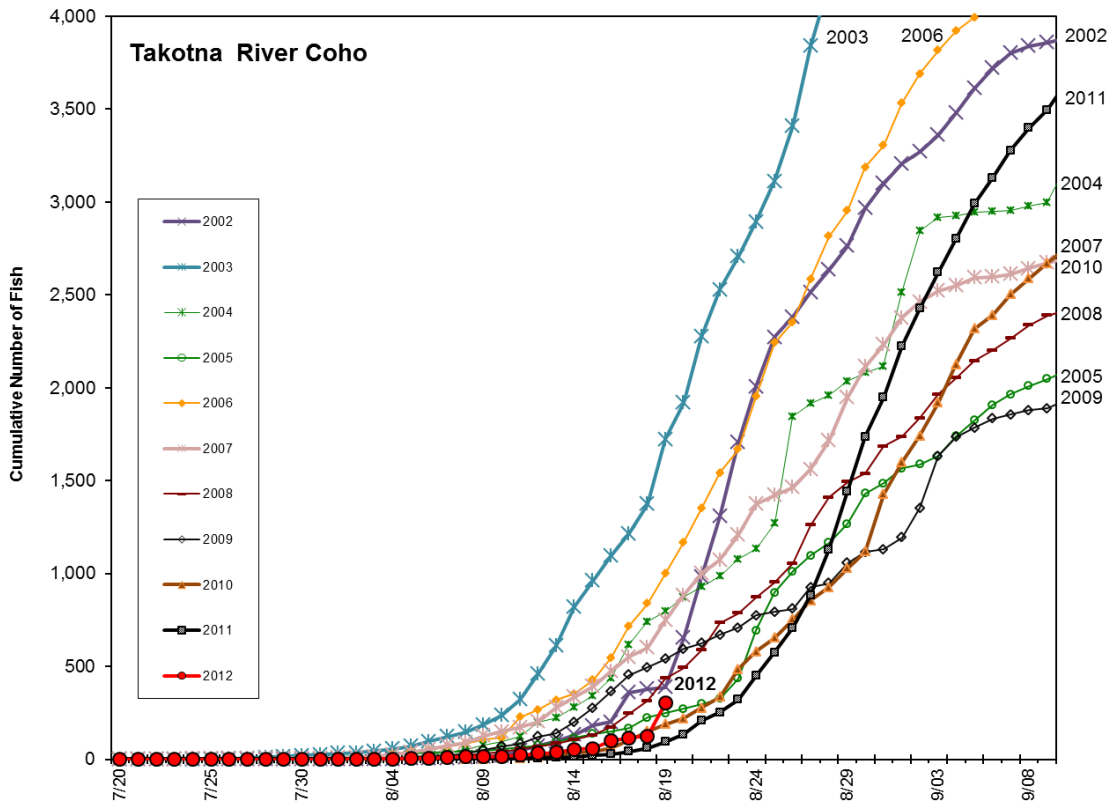


Takotna River weir

Takotna River weir historical cumulative daily coho salmon escapement.

Esc Goal Range: none

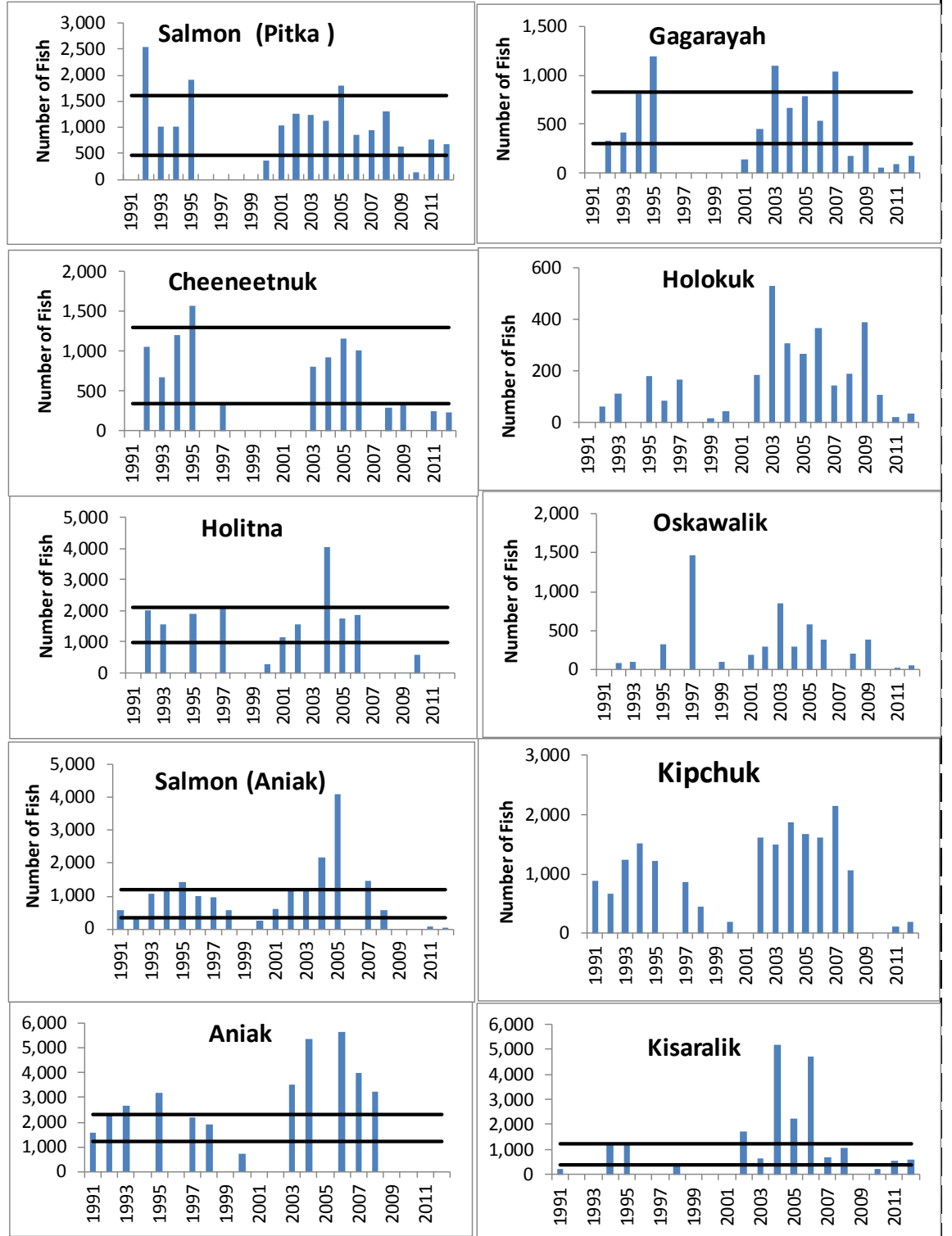
Date	Cumulative Daily Passage										
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
8/15	134	987	348	143	417	408	139	276	39	19	59
8/16	183	1,118	440	157	535	489	181	363	60	28	99
8/17	203	1,239	622	175	710	568	255	454	104	41	114
8/18	362	1,399	746	232	831	617	324	495	151	61	125
8/19	379	1,747	802	254	990	764	444	539	188	93	303
8/20	390	1,944	876	279	1,161	900	502	593	220	134	
8/21	656	2,300	933	305	1,342	1,015	597	625	275	207	
8/22	982	2,554	994	332	1,535	1,088	744	670	335	251	
8/23	1,310	2,730	1,082	443	1,660	1,223	796	708	484	320	
Season											
Total	3,982	7,146	3,201	2,209	5,556	2,837	2,807	2,704	3,217	4,063	



Kuskokwim River Aerial Stream Surveys - Chinook Salmon

Note: Aerial survey data not available for Holitna and Aniak rivers due to poor survey conditions.

Escapement Goal Range



Commercial Catch Report

District 1 Commercial Openings for 2012

Date	Subdistrict	Permits	Hours	Chinook		Sockeye		Chum		Coho	
				Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE	Catch	CPUE
7/13/2012	1-B ^a	151	4	96	0.16	1,041	1.72	16,270	26.94	20	0.03
7/16/2012	1-A ^a	46	4	75	0.41	301	1.64	6,773	36.81	5	0.03
7/17/2012	1-B ^a	152	4	64	0.11	707	1.16	11,793	19.40	122	0.20
7/19/2012	1-A ^a	52	4	49	0.24	209	1.00	6,046	29.07	221	1.06
7/20/2012	1-B ^a	157	4	112	0.18	162	0.26	8,596	13.69	511	0.81
7/23/2012	1-A ^a	41	4	18	0.11	135	0.82	3,859	23.53	324	1.98
7/24/2012	1-B ^a	132	4	6	0.01	52	0.10	2,893	5.48	1,562	2.96
7/26/2012	1-A ^a	53	4	11	0.05	31	0.15	3,255	15.35	1,545	7.29
7/27/2012	1-B ^a	139	4	6	0.01	101	0.18	1,847	3.32	2,912	5.24
7/30/2012	1-A ^a	59	4	6	0.03	11	0.05	1,131	4.79	4,815	20.40
7/31/2012	1-B ^a	133	4	4	0.01	33	0.06	631	1.19	3,485	6.55
8/2/2012	1-A ^a	65	4	6	0.02	7	0.03	485	1.87	3,496	13.45
8/3/2012	1-B ^a	127	4	3	0.01	9	0.02	493	0.97	6,958	13.70
8/6/2012	1-A ^a	66	4	-	0.00	8	0.03	204	0.77	5,353	20.28
8/7/2012	1-B ^a	157	4	2	0.00	9	0.01	164	0.26	5,148	8.20
8/9/2012	1-A ^a	64	4	-	0.00	10	0.04	76	0.30	3,630	14.18
8/10/2012	1-B	144	4	1	0.00	7	0.01	98	0.17	5,209	9.04
8/14/2012	1-A ^a	80	4	-	0.00	5	0.02	80	0.25	7,568	23.65
8/16/2012	1-B	109	4	-	0.00	7	0.02	28	0.06	7,996	18.34
8/18/2012	1-A	89	6	-	0.00	2	0.00	48	0.09	11,017	20.63
Total				459		2,847		64,770		71,897	

Footnotes

^a All Chinook harvested during the commercial opening were not sold but kept as personal use.

^b Incomplete verbal report.

In-season data is preliminary, subject to change

Working Group By-Laws

BY-LAWS OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER SALMON MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

PURPOSE

To provide local fishers and other users with an avenue for direct involvement in the management of their fishery. The goal is for all parties to work together to reach a consensus on management of the fishery. Final emergency order authority continues to rest with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

RULES OF CONDUCT

Meetings will be conducted by Robert's Rules of Order. The sequence of meetings is as follows:

- I. Call to order (by chair)
- II. Roll Call (by chair)
- III. Invocation
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. People to be heard
- VII. Continuing Business
 - A. Reports
 1. False Pass Fishery
 2. Processor Report
 3. Traditional Native Fishery Knowledge
 4. Subsistence Reports
 5. Test Fisheries
 6. Commercial Catch
 7. Escapement Projects
(sonar, towers, weirs)
 8. Aerial Surveys

9. Weather

B. Recommendation

C. Motion for Discussion and Action

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Meeting Action Announcement

XI. Date, Time, and Place of next meeting

XII. Adjournment

(This sequence may be changed at the discretion of the Group)

Continuing Business reports may not exceed 3 minutes in length, excluding questions and answers.

Under the ‘People to be heard’ agenda item the public would be provided an opportunity to discuss only topics or items which are **not** already listed as specific agenda items. A member of the public may also ask the Group to place an issue on the agenda.

Unlike other institutions or committees, the Working Group operates on a consensus basis. A simple majority vote of the members is not sufficient to pass a motion. For the purposes of the Group all motions must pass by a consensus of the members present at the meeting. If 7 (seven) or less of the members are present, then consensus is defined as a situation wherein either all voting members vote "yea" or all voting members vote "yea" except for one "nay" vote. If 8 (eight) or more of the members are present, then consensus is defined as a situation wherein either all voting members vote "yea" or all voting members vote "yea" except for two "nay" votes. Note that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game does not have voting status on motions concerning the setting of commercial openings.

ARTICLE I, OFFICE

The principal office of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) shall be located in the City of Bethel, Alaska 99559.

The current address of the principal office is, P.O. Box 1467, Bethel, Alaska 99559. The physical address is 570 4th Avenue.

ARTICLE II, MEMBERS

Section 1. Members: The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall have 13 member organizations or constituencies. These members represent: Elders (Upriver, Downriver) (2), Subsistence Fishermen (Lower River, Middle River, Upriver, and Headwaters) (4), Processors (1), Commercial Fishermen (1), Sport Fishers (1), Member at Large (1), Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Committees (Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior) (2), and the Department of Fish and Game (1). Each member of the Working Group will designate a representative and an alternate in the event the representative is unable to attend a meeting. In the case where more than one person is nominated to represent a member organization or constituency, the Working Group will appoint one of the nominees to represent the member organization or constituency.

Section 2. Annual Meeting:

An annual meeting of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group may be held in Bethel during the month of March at the call of the Co-Chairs. The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct any unfinished administrative functions that the Working Group needs to complete for the following year.

Section 3. Special Meetings:

Special meetings of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group may be called by the Co-Chairs.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings:

The Department of Fish and Game will be responsible for informing the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group members of the time, place and date of any meetings. Notification of meetings to the Working Group will be not less than 48 hours (when possible) or more than 30 days in advance.

Section 5. Quorum:

In order for a meeting of the Working Group to be held and for actions taken at a meeting to be legitimate, it is necessary for there to be a quorum at a meeting, that is at least 7 of the 13 member constituencies must be represented.

If a quorum of the full committee is not present, business may be conducted in executive session. The executive committee is composed of at least 5 representatives: one Co-Chair, any two representatives of the following member groups; Member at Large, Processors, Commercial Fisherman, and any two representatives of the following member groups; Lower, Middle, Upriver and Headwaters Subsistence, Federal RAC, Sport Fisher.

ARTICLE III. REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Working Group:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall be comprised of 13 representatives from the areas described in Article II, Section 1.

Section 2. General Powers:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall make recommendations to the Department of Fish and Game for the purposes of managing the salmon fisheries on the Kuskokwim River after subsistence and commercial catch, test fishery, weir, tower and sonar reports and other information are provided to the group.

Section 3. Voting Rights:

Each Working Group member shall be entitled to one vote. Alternates designated by the member shall also be entitled to one vote in the absence of that member. Members may abstain from voting on any motion.

The Elder member shall designate any respected Elder to serve as their alternate.

Working Group members must hear all the Continuing Business reports to vote on a motion to set commercial openings

Section 4. Resignation:

Any member or representative may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to a Co-Chair of the Working Group. The resignation must give the Working Group at least 4 weeks notification so that a new member or representative may be appointed.

Section 5. Vacancies:

A vacancy on the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, forfeiture or otherwise, may be filled by the Working Group from nominations by member groups for the remainder of the term.

Section 6. Forfeit, participation or removal:

- A. FORFEIT. The Working Group will give written notification, by certified mail, to any member organization, their representative and alternate whose seat has not been represented for 2 consecutive meetings that their membership in the Working Group will be forfeited if the seat is not represented by the following meeting. Whereas, a member's failure to be represented at a meeting is excused by the Working Group, as appropriate, such failure shall not be considered an absence within this section.

- B. PARTICIPATION. No representative will be allowed to participate in a Working Group meeting who is deemed to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

- C. REMOVAL. A representative may be removed from their seat on the Working Group for cause and must be provided the opportunity for a hearing before the Working Group. A representative may be removed for cause for any reason allowed, including but not limited to, conviction of a felony, gross misconduct, violation of their trust to the Working Group as a representative, or harassment of any kind to the other representatives of the Working Group.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS OF THE WORKING GROUP

Section 1. Officers:

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall elect Co-Chairs for the

purpose of conducting meetings. The Co-Chairs will be elected annually at the first meeting occurring after March 1st. The Working Group shall elect or appoint other officers as deemed necessary. An officer of the Working Group may not hold more than one position. The Co-Chairs must be official representatives of the Working Group.

Section 2. Terms of Office:

Each representative of the Working Group shall be elected or appointed every 2 years. A representative shall hold their position until their successor has been duly elected or appointed and has been qualified

Section 3. Co-Chair:

A Co-Chair of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group shall preside at all meetings of the Working Group.

Section 4. Other Committees:

The Co-Chairs shall have the authority to appoint representatives to serve on committees as deemed necessary. Any representative appointed to a committee may be removed in the best interest of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

ARTICLE V. DEFINITIONS

- 1. Member.** The member organizations or constituencies of the Working Group as listed in Article II, Section 1.
- 2. Alternate.** An individual designated to act in the place of a member or representative unable to attend a meeting.
- 3. Representative.** Person designated by a Working Group member organization or constituency to represent that member organization or constituency at Working Group meetings.
- 4. District W-1.** The Lower Kuskokwim River consists of the Kuskokwim River from a line between Apokak Slough and Popokamiut, upstream to a line between ADF&G regulatory markers located about eight miles above the Tuluksak River.

5. **District W-2.** The middle Kuskokwim River consists of the Kuskokwim River from ADF&G regulatory markers located at the upstream entrance to the second slough on the west bank downstream from Kalskag to the regulatory markers at Chuathbaluk.
6. **Elder.** Any respected Elder that resides within the Kuskokwim Area.
7. **Headwaters Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from McGrath upstream to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River.
8. **Upriver Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage above Chuathbaluk.
9. **Middle River Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from Lower Kalskag to Chuathbaluk within District W-2.
10. **Lower River Subsistence.** Representatives that are active subsistence users in the Kuskokwim River drainage from Eek to Tuluksak within District W-1.
11. **Processor.** Representatives that own or operate commercial salmon buying and/or processing businesses within District W-1 and W-2.
12. **Member at Large.** Representatives that are Area residents selected by the Working Group for their knowledge of, appreciation for, and experience with Kuskokwim River fisheries.
13. **Federal Regional Advisory Council.** Representatives that are current members of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Interior Advisory Councils and reside in the Kuskokwim Area.
14. **Commercial Fishermen.** Kuskokwim commercial fishing permit holder or crew member, supported by commercial fishing permit holders who fish primarily within Districts W-1 and W-2.
15. **Sport Fisher.** Representatives that actively participate in sports fishing within the Kuskokwim River drainage.

- 16. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.** Representatives that are presently employed with ADF&G in Bethel. This position is an associate member and has no voting powers but has the authority to veto recommendations for commercial fishing periods from the Working Group. Final emergency order authority continues to rest with the ADF&G.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by consensus of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group representatives present at any regular or special meeting, if at least thirty (30) days written notice is given by certified mail, phone call, or intention to alter, amend or appeal or to adopt new by-laws at such meeting.

Board of Fish Proposals for Consideration

<p style="text-align:center">ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES JANUARY 15-20, 2013 KUSKOKWIM FINFISH</p>

PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 01.286. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses. Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence for salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage as follows:

(a) The Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) finds that the following fish stocks are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence:

- (1) halibut, Pacific cod, and all other finfish, except as specified in (2)–(4) of this section, in the Kuskokwim Area;
- (2) salmon in the Kuskokwim Area, except the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (3) king, chum, sockeye, coho, and pink salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (4) herring and herring roe, along the coast between the westernmost tip of the Naskonat Peninsula and terminus of the Ishowik River, and along the coast of Nunivak Island.

(b) The board finds that the following amounts of fish are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses:

- (1) 64,500–83,000 king salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (2) 39,500–75,500 chum salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (3) 27,500–39,500 sockeye salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage;
- (4) 24,500–35,000 coho salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage; and
- (5) 7,500–13,500 salmon in the remainder of the Kuskokwim Area.

ISSUE: This proposal provides an opportunity for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (board) and public to revisit the ANS for subsistence findings for salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim area. The ANS for subsistence findings in codified regulations were set by the board in 2001 based upon the harvest history on the Kuskokwim River during the years 1990–1999. The ANS ranges were based on the low harvest and mean (average) harvest over the 10 years (Table 1).

Table 1.–Estimated subsistence salmon harvests of Kuskokwim Area salmon used for ANS determination in 2001.

Kuskokwim River					Remainder of Kuskokwim Area				
	Minimum	Average	High	ANS		Minimum	Average	High	ANS
King salmon	64,795	82,762	96,436	64,500-83,000	King salmon	3,535	4,511	6,699	
Chum salmon	39,970	75,143	126,508	39,500-75,500	Chum salmon	1,006	3,004	4,961	
Sockeye salmon	27,791	39,204	52,984	27,500-39,500	Sockeye salmon	823	2,073	3,420	
Coho salmon	24,864	34,803	50,370	24,500-35,000	Coho salmon	1,682	3,416	5,922	
					Salmon				7,500-13,500

Kuskokwim Area subsistence salmon harvests have been estimated by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries (1960–1987) and Division of Subsistence (1988–2007) annually since 1960. Harvest estimation methods changed in 1988 and again in 2008. The board may determine that an ANS revision may be justified due to a new harvest estimation method deployed retroactively by ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries beginning in 2008. This new method attempts to provide a more complete estimation of subsistence salmon harvests by species than previous methods. As a result, individual community estimates tend to be larger compared to estimates utilizing the previous method. The differences result from changes in the stratified sampling design and a new statistical approach that models harvest estimates from unsurveyed or underrepresented communities based on historical community-level harvest estimates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Board assessments of subsistence salmon harvests relative to the codified ANS findings will be more challenging given methodological differences between new harvest estimates and existing ANS findings. These challenges relate to the fact that the new method tends to result in harvest estimates that are higher than the previous 1988–2007 estimates. If the ANS findings are not revised based upon this new method, then the existing ANS findings in regulation may underrepresent the amount of each salmon stock necessary for subsistence harvests.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the salmon resources of the Kuskokwim Area will benefit from decisions based upon the best available information, which provides the board with an unambiguous metric for assessing reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of Kuskokwim Area salmon populations and stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If the board chose not to revise ANS findings for Kuskokwim River salmon stocks, and the department continued to utilize the new harvest estimation method, then subsistence users may suffer because ANS findings would no longer be consistent methodologically with the annual harvest monitoring program.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No action. However, this proposal provides the board with the opportunity to update the ANS with the best available harvest information, as well as provides the public with an opportunity to review and comment upon the proposal regarding the ANS for subsistence uses of Kuskokwim Area king, chum, sockeye, and coho salmon stocks.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-220)

PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. Update and clarify *Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan* and strategies as follows:

5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan.

(a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide guidelines for the [REBUILDING AND] management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery that will result in the sustained yield of salmon stocks large enough to meet the escapement goals, amounts necessary for subsistence, and for nonsubsistence fisheries.

(b) It is the intent of the Board of Fisheries that the Kuskokwim River salmon stocks shall be managed [DURING JUNE AND JULY] in a conservative manner consistent with the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries (5 AAC 39.222) **to meet escapement goals** and the subsistence priority.

(c) In the subsistence fishery, in the Kuskokwim River drainage, in the waters of the mainstem of the river and other salmon spawning tributaries, unless otherwise specified by the department,

(1) the subsistence salmon net and fish wheel fisheries will be open **seven** [FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE] days per week [IN JUNE AND JULY AS ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]; however, the commissioner may alter fishing periods by emergency order **consistent with migratory timing as the salmon runs progress upstream** based on run strength [AND] to achieve escapement goals;

(2) during subsistence closures **announced by emergency order,** [OF THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS PER WEEK IN JUNE AND JULY,] all salmon nets with a mesh size larger than four inches must be removed from the water, and fish wheels may not be operated; [HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER MAY ALTER FISHING PERIODS BY EMERGENCY ORDER BASED ON RUN STRENGTH AND TO ACHIEVE ESCAPEMENT GOALS;]

(3) **repealed.** [AS THE SALMON RUN PROGRESSES UPSTREAM FROM DISTRICTS 1 - 2, AND FURTHER UPSTREAM, THE PROVISIONS OF (1) OF THIS SECTION WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE MAINSTEM OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER AND SALMON SPAWNING TRIBUTARIES;]

(d) In the commercial fishery,

(2) only those waters of District 1 [DOWNSTREAM OF THE ADF&G REGULATORY MARKERS LOCATED AT BETHEL] may be opened during the first commercial salmon fishing period;

(3) the commissioner shall open and close the Kuskokwim River commercial salmon fishery by emergency order; [IF INSEASON INDICATORS OF RUN STRENGTH INDICATE

A RUN STRENGTH THAT IS LARGE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE FOR A HARVESTABLE SURPLUS AND A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES AND FOR NONSUBSISTENCE FISHERIES, THE SUBSISTENCE FISHING SHALL REVERT TO THE FISHING PERIODS AS SPECIFIED IN 5 AAC 01.260;]

(5) Districts 1 and 2 commercial fishing periods are from **12:00** [1:00] p.m. through **6:00** [7:00] p.m.; when longer fishing periods are allowed, the extra time is to be divided before **12:00** [1:00] p.m. and after **6:00** [7:00] p.m.;

(6) in June, **when** [AND UNTIL COHO SALMON RELATIVE ABUNDANCE EXCEEDS] chum salmon relative abundance **exceeds king salmon relative abundance**, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the chum salmon run strength;

(8) [WHEN CHUM SALMON ABUNDANCE IS SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FOR ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS, AND] when coho salmon relative abundance exceeds chum salmon relative abundance, the department shall manage, to the extent practicable, the commercial salmon fishery based on the strength of the coho salmon run;

(9) **repealed.** [WHEN THE CHUM SALMON RUN IS PROJECTED TO BE INADEQUATE TO MEET ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MANAGE THE COMMERCIAL COHO SALMON FISHERY TO MINIMIZE THE INCIDENTAL HARVEST OF CHUM SALMON AND TO PROVIDE FOR COHO SALMON ESCAPEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE NEEDS;]

(11) If the king salmon run is projected to be inadequate to meet escapement goals and to provide for a reasonable subsistence opportunity, and if the commissioner determines that there is a harvestable surplus of chum salmon sufficient to provide for escapement needs and a reasonable opportunity for subsistence, the commissioner may, by emergency order, open a directed chum salmon fishery and the department shall manage to the extent practical, the commercial chum salmon fishery to minimize the harvest of king salmon.

ISSUE: This proposal requests changes to the Kuskokwim River management plan to reflect current management practices, and provides greater flexibility during periods of conservation need for salmon in order to meet escapement, provide for subsistence opportunity, and manage overlapping salmon runs. The proposal would also allow for the opportunity to commercially harvest chum salmon when abundance is beyond what is necessary for escapement and subsistence.

In January 2001, the Alaska Board of Fisheries modified the *Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan* to provide guidelines for management of subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries for Kuskokwim River salmon. Management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery is complex due to overlapping multi-species salmon runs, and subsistence and commercial fisheries. Salmon fishery management has been very conservative and the commercial fishery closed unless king and chum salmon run strength are clearly adequate to provide for escapement and subsistence needs. The purpose of the management plan is to provide guidelines for management of the Kuskokwim River salmon fishery that ensure the

sustained yield of salmon stocks large enough to meet escapement goals, reasonable subsistence opportunity, and harvests for fisheries other than subsistence.

A set subsistence fishing schedule was established within the original plan, but is not necessary every year. If subsistence closures are established, the department needs flexibility in the duration of the closure and the ability to progressively implement such closures upstream as salmon migrate.

Commercial fishing throughout most of the 2000s was limited by stock of concern designations for king and chum salmon, poor market conditions for chum salmon, limited processing capacity, and low effort. Market conditions for chum salmon have improved in recent years; however, the fishery is still limited by processing capacity and low effort. Given record king, chum, and sockeye salmon escapements observed from 2004 to 2006, large surpluses of these species were available for commercial harvest, but were underexploited given the conditions listed above. Returns of king salmon from these record escapements have produced poor returns in recent years. Measures taken to conserve king salmon have resulted in forgone commercial chum salmon harvest and these fish continue to be underexploited despite available harvestable surpluses beyond escapement and subsistence needs. Managing for overlapping salmon species based upon abundance, while minimizing the harvest of a less abundant species to the extent practical will benefit resource users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The existing plan does not reflect current management practices and provides less flexibility in management of overlapping salmon runs than the proposed plan. More flexibility will ensure Kuskokwim River salmon runs are managed for sustained yield.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F12-223)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 07.365. Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. Adopt a drainagewide optimum escapement goal (OEG) for king salmon in the Kuskokwim River, adjust tributary goals accordingly, and add preseason and inseason management tools as follows:

The preferred solution is for 1) the Board to adopt a drainage-wide OEG for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon in lieu of the ADF&G goal, 2) for any adjustments made to tributary goals to be based on the OEG rather than the ADF&G goal, and 3) for a management plan be developed that

provides pre-season and in-season guidelines for achieving the escapement goals. In-season guidelines should direct managers to take actions that target achieving the mid-point of the escapement goal range when using in-season tools to project end-of-season escapements. Currently the primary in-season tool is the Bethel Test Fishery, which has limited precision in projecting final escapements. Given this imprecision, managers would need to target the mid-point of the escapement goal in order to assure ultimately achieving escapement within the escapement goal range. The management plan should also detail how localized management actions could be taken to protect individual tributaries experiencing low returns. Finally, the Department should consider including minimum numbers of female Chinook salmon required at monitored tributary escapements.

ISSUE: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) intends to adopt a drainage wide escapement goal for Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon, and we request the Board consider establishing an Optimal Escapement Goal (OEG) in lieu of the ADF&G goal. The ADF&G goal is to be based on a recent retrospective run reconstruction. Details about the run reconstruction have not been released, and details about the analysis for developing the escapement goal have yet to be determined by ADF&G.

Linked to this drainage wide goal, ADF&G plans to adjust existing tributary goals so that they are in proportion to each tributary's average contribution to drainage wide escapement, and we request that any such changes be proportioned based on the OEG rather than the ADF&G goal. Again, details from ADF&G are lacking, but the key risk is that under the ADF&G goal there may be inadequate numbers of females in the tributary escapements. The concern is maintaining genetic diversity throughout the drainage.

We also understand that Department is considering submitting a placeholder Management Plan for the Kuskokwim River Chinook Management. A final concern is the lack of Management Plan details that should provide guidelines to managers and the public as to how ADF&G plans to proceed in-season to achieve the escapement goal. Currently the primary in-season tool is the Bethel Test Fishery, which has limited precision in projecting final escapements.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the ADF&G goal is too low, as might occur if based strictly on Ricker spawner-recruit analysis, it may at times reduce densities of fish to such low levels that subsistence fishermen will need to significantly increase fishing time to catch the same amount harvested historically, which would be a substantial economic hardship. If not adopted, at risk is providing adequate subsistence harvest opportunity, and the ability of subsistence fishermen to harvest salmon within the range of Amounts Necessary for Subsistence.

At risk is assuring adequate distribution of spawners throughout the drainage, and assuring adequate numbers of spawning females. Both could have negative consequences in maintaining genetic diversity throughout the drainage. Also at risk is the long-term sustainability of the fishery should escapement distribution be inadequate and/or inadequate numbers of females Chinook salmon be allowed to spawn (i.e., inadequate egg deposition, which could lead towards perpetuating low returns).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This should not affect fish quality. However, the quality of escapement maybe affected. At risk is providing adequate numbers of females Chinook in the escapement; i.e, inadequate egg deposition, which could lead towards perpetuating low returns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those most likely to benefit are subsistence fishermen, particularly subsistence fishermen upstream of Subdistrict W1-B, who will be assured catch rates (densities of salmon available for harvest, or fish per hour) comparable to historical levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those most likely to suffer are also subsistence fishermen, particularly those within Subdistrict W1-B, who may be subjected to harvest restrictions in order to pass fish upstream to meet escapement goals and to provide for upriver subsistence harvest opportunity. Commercial fishermen would also suffer because in some years there may be foregone commercial harvest to achieve escapements above Maximum Sustained Yield and to provide for subsistence harvest opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other alternatives are to 1) accept the ADF&G goal without a management plan but the details are unknown) 2) Request that ADF&G to take no action at this time; i.e., post-pone establishing the drainage-wide escapement goal and consequent modification to tributary goals until: 1) full vetting occurs of the Chinook salmon run reconstruction including review from non-ADF&G experts, 2) reasonable local outreach can occur that informs stakeholders of the intended actions and allow ADF&G opportunity to gather public input and address concerns.

Not having adequate information available about the Department’s plan leaves only the option to recommend that an OEG be established.

PROPOSED BY: Association of Village Council Presidents (HQ-F12-079)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 01.2XX. Kuskokwim River king salmon possession limits. Allow subsistence taking of 10 or more king salmon only for drying and cold-smoke use in the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

The taking and use of more than ten (10) subsistence caught Chinook salmon per household in June is only allowed for the seasonally dependent processing and preservation practice of outdoor drying and “cold” smoking.

This is consistent with the Board’s discretion for application of subsistence criteria, and in accordance with directives in 4FA-09-1515 Civil (Ref BOF Proposal #200 of March, 2010 meeting), regarding 5AAC 99.010 (b), that “The Board can look to see that the taking and use reflects the cultural, social, spiritual and nutritional values embodied in subsistence laws.” to further the standard of protecting a subsistence way of life; and consistent with AS 16.05.258(b)(2)(A) that the Board “shall adopt regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses of those stocks or populations;” or, (C) that the Board “shall adopt regulations to differentiate among consumptive uses that provide for a preference for the subsistence uses, if regulations are adopted under (B) of this paragraph”.

Neither should this proposal in any way be misconstrued, interpreted or adapted to trigger the need to consider establishing a Tier II subsistence fishery in the Kuskokwim Area under A.S. 16.05.258(b)(4) or 5 AAC 99.010(c), since reasonable opportunity for ALL subsistence uses of ALL subsistence users is maintained, and this Board action would not reduce them below that level. Yet at the same time it could significantly reduce overall harvest impact on quantity and quality of related management, subsistence use and escapement objectives for the Kuskokwim Management Area.

ISSUE: 1) Harvest and processing limitations in customary and traditional subsistence use of Kuskokwim King salmon;

2) The need for the oldest and most practical methods and means of preserving sufficient quantities of King salmon for the winter, is dependent on this seasonal activity occurring during June (i.e. “dry fish”), whereas those involved with more recent technological methods are not (i.e. “freezer/export fish”); and

3) The increasing levels of individuals who catch large amounts of “freezer/export fish” opportunistically are largely lacking in the region’s cultural background, and do not have a similarly situated level of need.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The oldest and most practical customary and traditional practice of drying and smoking enough King salmon for subsistence use throughout the winter will continue to be diminished or denied at the expense of more recent activities. In addition the cultural teachings inherent to the multi-family and multi-generational practice directly associated with summer fish camp and dry fish processing/preservation activities will continue to be increasingly disenfranchised. Ten (10) King salmon per household should be more than adequate to satisfy the “freezer/export fish” component of the harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Removal of restrictions imposed at the expense of a subsistence activity for an essentially opportunistic one, could go far towards improving the full range of management objectives.

It would also reduce the amount of unavoidable and shameful waste of time, effort and resource which occurs when management actions force people to harvest and process their yearly subsistence needs for salmon later in the season: When the weather patterns deteriorate and cause loss through souring and rot, and causing much greater amounts of fly egg deposition with resulting prevalence of maggot infestation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The vast majority of fishers throughout the drainage who depend on use of Kuskokwim King salmon for their families’ primary winter supply of subsistence fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals who would opportunistically harvest subsistence King salmon without limitation, regardless of individual need, processing/use capability or extended negative impacts to others.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The prospect of Community Harvest Permits could be explored or incorporated for points of issue in this proposal, but uncertain as to what extent they would be effectively addressed.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F12-147)

PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 01.280. Subsistence fishing permits. Require a permit and reporting requirements for all subsistence-caught salmon transported out of the Kuskokwim Management Area as follows:

Require a permit and reporting requirement for all subsistence caught salmon transported out of the Kuskokwim Management Area.

ISSUE: There is no existing method or means of tracking the numbers or species of salmon being shipped out of the Kuskokwim Area other than commercial harvests. Local observations from Bethel residents over the last three-four years report increasing numbers of individuals traveling back and forth throughout the season with full allocation of 150# baggage in fish boxes each time. The Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group requested assistance from the USFWS to pursue the matter, but were informed it was not in their area of jurisdiction. Requests were made of regional air freight, cargo and passenger airlines to provide this information voluntarily, but they declined to do so. Anecdotal reports are heard from the middle and upper river of more people coming in to fish the Kuskokwim – especially for King salmon, since so many other areas have been severely restricted or closed altogether in recent years. We may only speculate at present on how much impact this activity is having on Kuskokwim salmon stocks – or what level if any may be associated with commercial interests.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current situation will continue and can only get worse.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not Applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fisheries that rely on Kuskokwim salmon for primary source of sustenance. Management entities that currently have no other reliable means of data gathering or accounting for these salmon numbers in management decisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who may be taking advantage of, or abusing, the ability to gather large quantities of salmon from the Kuskokwim area for personal gain.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None that would adequately address scope of the issue or current anecdotal aspect.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-F12-148)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 01.2XX. Customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish. Allow for sale of subsistence-taken finfish in the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

Add a new section in Article 5 as 5 AAC 01.xxx for Customary Trade of subsistence-taken finfish.

(a) In the Kuskokwim Area, the customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish is permitted as specified in this section. A person who conducts a customary trade in subsistence-taken finfish under this section must: (1) obtain a customary trade record keeping form from the department before the person conducts the customary trade, and accurately record the cash sale on the form within the 24 hours after the sale occurs; the form requires the reporting of (A) the date of each sale; (B) the buyers name and address; (C) the species and amount of finfish sold; (D) the location where the finfish were harvested; (E) the dollar amount of each sale; (F) the form of processing used; and (G) any other information the department requires for management or enforcement purposes; (2) return the customary trade record keeping form to the department as prescribed by the department on the form; (3) display the customary trade record keeping form upon request by a local representative of the department or a peace officer of the state.

(b) A person may not sell subsistence-taken finfish under this section for more than \$500 total per household in a calendar year.

(c) A person who receives subsistence-taken finfish in exchange for cash in a customary trade may not resell the fish.

(d) A sale or purchase of finfish authorized under this section, including the delivery of fish to a purchaser, may occur only in the Kuskokwim Area.

ISSUE: Escalating levels of, and concerns about, present and future individuals selling fish for significant cash income (i.e. commercial activities) under protection of customary trade.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As the human population of the area (thru either resident or in-migration) continues to increase this problem can only get worse. If it is not addressed now, it will only be putting it off to be “solved” later.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not Applicable

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The vast majority of subsistence fishers in the Kuskokwim area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals present and future who take advantage of the lack of limitations to essentially practice commercial activities under a protective guise of customary trade.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – Unacceptable

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council

(HQ-F12-149)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 07.331. Gillnet specifications and operations. Remove the option for gillnet mesh to be up to 8 inches in District 1 of the Kuskokwim River Area as follows:

5 AAC 07.331 (c) In Districts 1 and 2, salmon may be taken only with gillnets with six-inch or smaller mesh. [, EXCEPT THAT IN DISTRICT 1, THE COMMISSIONER MAY OPEN FISHING PERIODS, DURING WHICH THE GILLNET MESH SIZE MAY BE NO GREATER THAN EIGHT INCHES.]

ISSUE: The allowance of up to 8” mesh gear in W-1 of the Kuskokwim commercial fishery remains in regulation, while the large Chinook salmon (primarily females) that would be targeted by this gear should be directed towards enhancing the quality of escapement, with any harvestable surplus of that stock component fully allocated to the subsistence fishery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An unnecessary regulation will remain on the books.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adoption of this regulation is consistent with the escapement and subsistence priority management objectives in the Kuskokwim River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who rely on the long-term integrity of Kuskokwim Chinook salmon stocks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who might attach some sentimental value to the illusory hope of returning to the directed commercial Chinook fishery of 1973-1985 (appx.).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We initially considered amending the regulation to remain effective only after July 1, but further discussions supported eliminating it altogether as a more realistic action.

PROPOSED BY: Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group

(HQ-F12-150)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim – Goodnews Area. Close all sport fishing on the Eek River as follows:

Closed to Sport Fishing: All species of fish on the Eek River.

ISSUE: Sport Fishing on the Eek River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The village of Eek has a long standing law passed down from our Elders not to play with our food.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The Proposal will bring the use of this river to what it has always been used for by the First Peoples- A Subsistence Gathering River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No-one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Eek (HQ-F12-152)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 01.270. Lawful gear and gear specifications and operations; 5 AAC 07.331 Gillnet specifications and operations; 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area. Close all sport and commercial guide fisheries in the Kwethluk River from June 1 through July 25 and limit the size of net gear used in both subsistence and commercial fisheries for the same time frame as follows:

1. Allow subsistence fishing using only 4” or less mesh size setnets (no more than 60’ in length).
2. Allow driftnets with only 4” or less mesh size nets no more than 60’ in length.

ISSUE: Close all sport fisheries and commercial guiding operation from June 1-July 25 every summer from the mouth of Kwethluk River to the headwaters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Whenever there is subsistence closures on the river(s)- sports fisher are allowed to fish any species of fish (including salmon).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will enhance the escapement of salmon spawners to their spawning grounds at the headwaters of salmon stream.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, it will enhance the biological health of the salmon species on the Kwethluk River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial guide operators from June 1-July 25 (only).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? (1) whole mainstem closure- to will hurt subsistence fishers.

PROPOSED BY: Organized Village of Kwethluk, Kwethluk IRA Council (HQ-F12-072)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area(c)(7) and (8). Prohibit catch and release fishing for salmon on the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers as follows:

Catch and release salmon sport fishing is prohibited on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage.

Exception: (A salmon may be released only if it is observed to be too unhealthy for human consumption).

ISSUE: Catch and release salmon sport fishing is considered a violation of traditional beliefs amongst the Yup'ik People who call the Kanektok and Arolik rivers their home. Yup'ik residents have observed numerous occasions where salmon have been mishandled by sport fishermen ever since their home rivers became a popular sport fishing destination.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Yup'ik residents will continue to observe the salmon stocks on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage steadily decline due to salmon being mishandled by sport fishermen. Here are some examples;

1. Salmon that are handled and released are more prone to illness due to the protective layer of mucus on their skin being removed. Knotted landing nets also cause this protective layer to be removed.
2. Salmon that are dragged up on gravel bars then kicked back into the water are injured. Sand and gravel may also get into their gills damaging these sensitive areas.
3. Oversized hooks are known to penetrate through the mouths of salmon and pierce their eyes, injuring their mouths and eyes.
4. Salmon that are removed from the water for prolonged periods of time take much longer to recover and have a reduced chance of survival when released.
5. Salmon that are fought too long become overly exhausted and when released are seen to roll over on to their bellies and float down river too weak to recover.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing more salmon to reach their spawning grounds without interference and mishandling from sport fishermen who practice catch and release fishing, thus allowing for a higher success rate of salmon completing their natural spawning cycle.

Current sport fish regulations for the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage allows for and provides opportunities for sport fishermen to harvest their daily bag limit of salmon for human consumption, this proposal reinforces that State of Alaska approved regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the salmon resource will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Kwinhagak IRA Council (HQ-F12-020)

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 5 AAC 71.010. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Kuskokwim - Goodnews Area. Prohibit sport fishing on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok and Arolik River drainages as follows:

Sport fishing is prohibited on all salmon spawning beds on the Kanektok River Drainage and Arolik River Drainage.

ISSUE: Sport fishermen who practice catch and release fishing on salmon spawning beds are molesting, disturbing, harassing and stressing salmon during this critical time when salmon are trying to fulfill their natural spawning cycle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Female salmon which are caught and released from spawning beds have a higher chance of aborting their eggs prematurely due to the stress from being hooked, fought and released.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing more salmon to successfully complete their natural spawning cycle on their spawning beds without interference and mishandling from sport fishermen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the resource will benefit with this regulation change.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Kwinhagak IRA Council (HQ-F12-021)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 01.188(b). Customary trade of subsistence-taken finfish. Increase the amount of money a household may receive from the sale of subsistence-caught fish from \$200 to \$500 as follows:

(b) Change 200 to 500.

ISSUE: Increase the sale of subsistence fish to 500.00.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unreported sales.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More product may be sold.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence fishermen wanting to help pay for gas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tom Sparks

(HQ-F12-040)
